

## SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Guy McCaskie

The spring migration period was somewhat dull and uneventful with no major storms to ground migrant waterbirds moving northward out of the Gulf of California, and no concentrations of landbirds encountered either along the coast or inland. Migrants were scarce after the first week of May, and vagrants tended to remain in one location for only short periods of time, thus being seen by only a few fortunate observers.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — F.C.R. = Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley, Inyo Co.; L.A.C.M.N.H. = Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History; N.E.S.S. = north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.; S.E.S.S. = south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.; U.C.S.B. = University of California in Santa Barbara; W.F.V.Z. = Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology. As most rarities found in s. California are seen by numerous observers, only the observer initially identifying the bird is included. Documentation is on file for all rarities listed in the report.

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS** — Eighteen Com. Loons at N.E.S.S., May 4 (EAC) was the largest concentration found inland this spring, and nine on the Whitewater Flood Plain ponds near Palm Springs May 3 (MMcC) were at an interesting locality. A Horned Grebe at N.E.S.S., Apr. 21-June 1 (JO) was late. A wintering Red-necked Grebe remained on Morro Bay to Apr. 13 (GPS) and another was in Malibu Mar. 1-10 (AK).

A Laysan Albatross that was seen to collide with power lines in the San Geronio Pass n. of Palm Springs May 6 (BaC, \*L.A.C.M.N.H.) was the 6th to have been found inland in this general area during spring (see AB 38:957, 1984). Three Black-vented Shearwaters off Morro Bay Mar. 9 (TME) were late for this far n. A few Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels evidently ventured into s. California waters as indicated by single birds seen off Morro Bay May 18 (BS) and off Santa Barbara Apr. 5 (LB, \*U.C.S.B.), and dead individuals found near Morro Bay Apr. 13 (GPS), on Refugio State Beach near Santa Barbara Apr. 7 (KLG, \*L.A.C.M.N.H.), in Ventura Mar. 21 (KLG, \*W.F.V.Z.), and 10 mi w.s.w. of Santa Catalina I., Mar. 17 (KLG, \*L.A.C.M.N.H.).

A Red-billed Tropicbird seen off San Diego May 18 (DP) was among very few ever found in s. California waters in May. An ad. Red-footed Booby (white phase) well seen in flight around Morro Rock at the entrance to Morro Bay May 27 (JS) was the first to be found in s. California, although two have been found on the Farallon Is. to the n. (DeSante and Ainley, *Studies in Avian Biology* No. 4, 1980). Single Brown Pelicans at N.E.S.S., Apr. 6 (RRV), Apr. 22-29 (BED), and May 11 (GMcC) were unusually early for this inland locality and an immature on L. Henshaw, San Diego Co., May 31 (RH) was at an unusual locality.



An ad. Little Blue Heron in Carpinteria May 22-24 (JC) and another at Baker May 27 (JO) were both part of a small but regular N May movement of these birds that has scattered individuals throughout s. California in the last 10 years. An ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in La Jolla Mar. 19-31 (JN) was believed to be the individual frequenting nearby San Elijo Lagoon off and on since October 1981, and was undoubtedly the same bird present at this exact location (perched on same branch in same tree) May 23-June 1, 1983.

**WATERFOWL, RAPTORS** — Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were exceptionally scarce with three to seven at Ramer/Finney lakes near S.E.S.S., Apr. 3-4 (REW, JML) being the only ones reported. A Ross' Goose on L. Henshaw Apr. 5-7 (RH) and another at N.E.S.S., Apr. 13 (REW) were both late. A Brant in California City, Kern Co., Mar. 30-31 (MH) was part of the movement of Brant out of the Gulf of California that regularly occurs each spring, and results in small flocks being found on the Salton Sea and other such bodies of water in the extreme s. portion of the Region. A ♀ Wood Duck at N.E.S.S., May 31 (REW) was at an unusual locality. A ♂ Eur. Wigeon at S.E.S.S., Apr. 3 (REW) was the latest of the wintering birds. Four Greater Scaup on L. Henshaw Mar. 2 (RH) were the first to be found on this well-covered lake. The two wintering Harlequin Ducks near San Simeon, San Luis Obispo Co., remained through Apr. 3 (CAM) and the male



at Bolsa Chica was still present at the end of the period (SJR). An Oldsquaw at Oceano May 26 (PEL) was exceptionally late if not attempting to summer locally, and another at N.E.S.S., Apr. 3 (REW) was inland. A ♂ Black Scoter at Newport Beach Apr. 20-21 (LRH) was on the late side. A flock of 105 Surf Scoters on L. Henshaw Mar. 2 (RH) and 19 there Apr. 17 (RH) were the only ones found inland this spring. Nine Red-breasted Mergansers on the Whitewater Flood Plain ponds near Palm Springs Apr. 22 (BaC) were at an interesting location.

Single Ospreys at F.C.R., May 12 & 15 (REM) were at an unusual locality. A Black-shouldered Kite at Finney L., Apr. 3 (REW) was outside the species' normal range. A **Common Black-Hawk** well seen at Thousand Palms Oasis, Riverside Co., Apr. 13 (BED, LRH) provided the first record for California, and what appears to have been another from the description was at Barker Dam in Joshua Tree N.M., Apr. 23 (JM). A Swainson's Hawk over Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo Co., May 19 (BS) was along the coast where now exceptionally rare. A Ferruginous Hawk over Lone Pine May 24 (DR) was exceptionally late. A Golden Eagle over F.C.R., May 18 (REM) was among very few ever to be seen at this locality. Single Peregrine Falcons at Soboba Springs, Riverside Co., Mar. 20 (BW), at L. Henshaw May 15-16 (RH), and near Borrego Springs May 21 (RH) were away from the coast and the Salton Sea.

**PLOVERS THROUGH SKIMMER** — Wintering Lesser Golden-Plovers remained into April with one *fulva* near Santa Maria Apr. 30 (NC); single birds at N.E.S.S., Apr. 6 (RRV), on Pt. Loma May 10 (REW), and near Lancaster May 12 (TM) were migrant *dominica*. Two Black Oystercatchers in Malibu Apr. 6 (KLG) and another in La Jolla Mar. 4 (BoC) were away from areas of regular occurrence. A Solitary Sandpiper, rare in spring, was at S.E.S.S., Apr. 27 (GmCc) and another was at F.C.R., May 12 (REM). A Wandering Tattler, casual inland, was on the Salton Sea at Salton City June 1 (JML). An Upland Sandpiper at F.C.R., May 17-18 (REM) was the 5th to have been found at that location in May and the 10th ever to be found in the Region. Single Whimbrels near Bishop Mar. 25 (JLD) and at F.C.R., May 19 (REM) were in the n.e. portion of the Region where rarely recorded. Ruddy Turnstones were present on the Salton Sea Apr. 13-May 11 with 23 counted May 11 (GmCc). A Black Turnstone, casual inland, was at N.E.S.S., Apr. 20 (GmCc). A Surfbird, also casual inland, was at Salton City Apr. 22 (CAM) and two were there Apr. 27 (GmCc). As usual large numbers of Red Knots passed through the Salton Sea during April with 250 counted Apr. 27 (GmCc). One hundred Sanderlings at Salton City May 5 (GmCc) was a large concentration for inland, and 27 at N.E.S.S., May 30-31 (REW) were late. At least five Semipalmated Sandpipers found on the Salton Sea during May (GmCc, REW), one near Lancaster May 5 (REM), and another near Rosamond, Kern Co., Apr. 27 (MH) gave us an average number for spring. A real rarity was the **White-rumped Sandpiper** at N.E.S.S., May 30 (REW), this being only the 4th to have been found in s. California. A Baird's Sandpiper, extremely rare in spring, was in Goleta Mar. 23 (PEL), and a Pectoral Sandpiper, equally rare in spring, was in Corona, Riverside Co., Apr. 28 (CMcC). Up to 42 Stilt Sandpipers were present at S.E.S.S., Apr. 1-May 3 (BWK, PEL), this being the only locality in California where this species can be found regularly in such numbers. A ♀ Ruff near San Jacinto Mar. 17 (BWK) was inland. A winter-plumaged Red-necked Phalarope off San Pedro Mar. 17 (KLG) was thought to have wintered locally, since spring migrants do not normally occur before the end of April.

A S. Polar Skua, rare in s. California waters, was 15 mi n.n.w. of Santa Barbara I., May 29 (CD). An ad. Laughing Gull at Salton City May 5 (GmCc) was unseasonable, and another at Malibu May 28 (JKA) was along the coast where casual. An ad. Franklin's Gull at S.E.S.S., May 4 (EAC), two together at Oceano May 23 (CAM), and another at Oasis May 26 (CAM) were the only ones reported. A Yellow-footed Gull well-studied in La Jolla May 21 (JN) was one of a very few ever to be found along the California coast. Fifteen Sabine's Gulls off San Diego May 18

(PU) were spring migrants. An Elegant Tern at N.E.S.S., May 20-June 1 (HL) was the first ever to be found on the Salton Sea and the 2nd ever to be found inland. A subad. (winter-plumaged?) Com. Tern in Goleta Apr. 1 (PEL) was extremely early if a spring migrant, and three adults at N.E.S.S., May 5 (GmCc) were early for that area. A Least Tern, casual inland, was at N.E.S.S., May 31 (REW). A Black Skimmer at Playa del Rey Mar. 14 (MC) was at an unusual locality.

**PIGEONS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS** — A Band-tailed Pigeon on Pt. Loma Apr. 20 (REW) was outside the species' normal range. A wintering White-winged Dove remained in Los Osos Mar. 16-Apr. 5 (J & KH), and another in Goleta remained through Apr. 10 (PEL); up to five near L. Henshaw May 25+ (RH) were w. of the species' breeding range. A Com. Ground-Dove in Carpinteria Apr. 7 (ST) was at the extreme n. limit of the species' expanding range along the coast. Single Yellow-billed Cuckoos at Ft. Piute, San Bernardino Co., May 26 (PU) and at Oasis May 26 (JO) were spring migrants. Four W. Screech-Owls calling around Finney L., Apr. 4 (JML) and one found perched in a tree at Oasis May 30 (REM) were at interesting localities in areas where few previous records are known.

Five migrant Black Swifts were noted over L. Henshaw between May 3 & 7 (RH). Up to seven Chimney Swifts over downtown Los Angeles May 6+ (KLG) were unusually early; one seen with Vaux's Swifts and heard calling over California City May 10 (MOC) was the first to be found in Kern County, and two in Big Pine May 19+ (BED) appeared to be a mated pair nesting in a chimney. A ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird in Alta Mesa near Whitewater Canyon, Riverside Co., Apr. 9 (BaC) and another near Valermo Apr. 14 (KLG) were both w. of the species' normal range. A Lewis' Woodpecker on Pt. Loma Apr. 14 (GmCc) was at an unusual locality, and an Acorn Woodpecker at Ft. Piute May 22 (BWK) was far from the nearest oaks.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher in the Santa Ynez Mts. of Santa Barbara County Mar. 21 (JLD) was extremely early. The wintering Greater Pewee in San Diego remained through Apr. 14 (EC). Brown-crested Flycatchers were first noted at Morongo Valley, at the extreme w. edge of the species' breeding range, May 1 (EAC), one in Victorville May 24 (REW) was in suitable breeding habitat, and one was again at F.C.R., May 10+ (REM). The wintering Thick-billed Kingbird near Tustin was last seen Apr. 6 (HLJ) and the one in Claremont remained through May 10 (DG). The only E. Kingbirds reported were one at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley N.M., May 25 (GT), and another at nearby Mesquite Springs May 24-27 (DG). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a casual straggler to California, was at Oasis May 25-27 (BLaB).

**JAYS THROUGH WOOD WARBLERS** — A Pinyon Jay at Morongo Valley Apr. 28 (RRV) was at a most unusual locality. A Townsend's Solitaire on Pt. Loma Mar. 18-25 (REW) was on the coast where rare. A Varied Thrush near Laguna Dam Apr. 7 (ML) was one of a very few ever to be found in Imperial County. A Gray Catbird, a casual straggler to California, was at Oasis May 30 (REW). A ♀ White-eyed Vireo in Huntington Beach May 21-28 (BED) was the first to be found in Orange County and only the 6th for s. California. A Bell's Vireo at Oasis May 31 (REM) was exceptionally far n., and may have been a vagrant from the e. Three Yellow-throated Vireos, far more than normally found, were reported with an exceptionally early individual in Los Osos Apr. 14-19 (DW), one along the coast in Huntington Beach May 25-27 (LRH), and the 3rd inland at Oasis May 18 (LK). The only Red-eyed Vireo reported was a single bird at Ft. Piute May 26 (PU).

A ♂ Golden-winged Warbler, one of the rarer vagrants to reach California, was at Oasis May 23 (JLD). Eighteen Tennessee Warblers in May was fewer than usual. A ♂ Lucy's Warbler at Oasis May 23-31 (JLD) was unusually far n. Fifteen N. Parulas between Apr. 15 and June 2 were more than expected. The only Chestnut-sided Warbler to be found was a female at Oasis May 24 (JLD). A ♂ Black-throated Green Warbler on San Miguel I., June 3-6 (CD) was only the 7th to have been found in s. Califor-



nia in spring, and a ♂ Blackburnian Warbler on Pt. Loma June 4 (REW) was the 5th. A ♀ Yellow-throated Warbler, a casual straggler to California, was at Oasis May 29-30 (REW). A Prairie Warbler in Pismo Beach Mar. 16-23 (CAM) was undoubtedly wintering locally, and one of a very few ever known to do so in California. A wintering Palm Warbler at Doheney S.P. was still present on the late date of May 3 (LRH) and one on San Miguel I., Mar. 23-27 (CD) was undoubtedly wintering. The wintering Pine Warbler in Coronado was last seen Mar. 12 (REM). Two Blackpoll Warblers, exceptionally rare in spring, were found with an exceptionally early male on Pt. Loma May 8 (REW) and a female at Oasis May 25 (ML). A ♂ Cerulean Warbler in California City May 17 (MOC) was only the 6th ever to be found in s. California.

Black-and-white Warblers and Am. Redstarts were scarcer than normal, with reports of only 15 and 10, respectively. Two Prothonotary Warblers were found with a female at F.C.R., May 14 (REM) and a male on Pt. Loma May 18 (EB). A ♂ Worm-eating Warbler on Pt. Loma May 27 (EC) was only the 7th ever to be found in s. California in spring. Eight Ovenbirds between May 19 and June 1 was about average, but five N. Waterthrushes between May 5 & 25 was below average. Five Kentucky Warblers were unprecedented, with an early male in Claremont May 9 (DG, \* L.A.C.M.N.H.), a male in California City May 19 (MH), a female in nearby Mojave May 25 (JWi), and single males at Ft. Piute and Iron Mt. Pump Station May 22 (BWK, BH); there were only 6 previous spring records for the Region. A ♂ Mourning Warbler at Mesquite Springs May 25 (JWh) was the 5th to be found in s. California in spring. Four ♂ Hooded Warblers were reported with one at Cottonwood Springs in Joshua Tree N.M., Apr. 21 (BSt), another on Pt. Loma May 5 (RRV), a 3rd in California City May 25 (MH), and the 4th in Moro Canyon, Orange Co., June 12-13 (SJR). A Painted Redstart at Charlton flats in the San Gabriel Mts., May 18-19 (AB) was in suitable breeding habitat, but could not be found on subsequent dates.

**TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES**—The wintering Hepatic Tanager in Santa Barbara was last seen Apr. 9 (PEL) and the one on Pt. Loma remained through Apr. 8 (REW). As usual, a few Summer Tanagers reached the coast and the n.e. corner of the Region during May and early June with 10 reported; these were all believed to be vagrant *rubra* from the e., rather than *cooperi* that breeds in the s.e. corner of the Region. Fifteen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks May 17-30 was about average, but five Indigo Buntings May 15-30 was far below normal. A pair of Dickcissels, casual in spring, at Oasis May 22-25 (REM) appeared to be on territory, but disappeared when the alfalfa they were frequenting was cut. A Black-throated Sparrow on Pt. Loma May 22 (REW) was along the coast where rare to casual. A Swamp Sparrow at F.C.R., May 19 (REM) was late. A ♂ Lapland Longspur on Santa Barbara I., May 30 (CD) was exceptionally late,

there being only one previous recorded occurrence after March: the totally out-of-season occurrence of one in Kelso June 9, 1977.

The only Bobolinks reported were three to four at F.C.R., May 24-27 (GMCC), and a male on San Clemente I., May 21 (JZ). Three Orchard Orioles in Goleta since Dec. 27 were still present Apr. 22 (HR), and a male on Pt. Loma Mar. 23-Apr. 21 (CGE) undoubtedly wintered locally, but a female in Mojave Mar. 23 (MH) was judged to be migrating. The imm. ♂ Streak-backed Oriole that wintered in La Jolla was last seen Apr. 29 (DE). A ♂ Scott's Oriole on Pt. Loma Apr. 14 (GMCC) was right along the coast where rare. A Cassin's Finch at F.C.R., May 24-25 (GMCC) was late for such a location. Red Crossbills remained numerous and widespread well into May, with 10 in Oceano May 5-23 (BS), up to 50 in Long Beach during March and April with one or two remaining through May (BED), and up to 25 on Pt. Loma during March and April with the last seen June 3 (REW) being the largest concentrations along the coast; up to 18 in Hart Park near Bakersfield to Apr. 20 (MOC), up to 20 in California City through May (MOC), and up to 10 in Brawley Mar. 23-May 3 (BED, PEL) were the most significant concentrations inland away from the mountains.

**CORRIGENDUM**—The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper on the Kern N.W.R., Kern Co., was present Apr. 8-10, and not May 8-10 as reported (AB 38:960, 1984).

**CONTRIBUTORS** (County coordinators in boldface)—Jonathan K. Alderfer, Louis Bevier, Art Blauvelt, Eric Brooks, Eugene A. Cardiff (San Bernardino Co.), Barbara Carlson (BaC), Bob Cate (BoC), Judy Chamberlain, Mark O. Chichester (Kern Co.), Elizabeth Copper (San Diego Co.), Mary Courtright, Nancy Crawford, Brian E. Daniels, Charles Drost, Jon L. Dunn, Tom M. Edell (San Luis Obispo Co.), Claude G. Edwards, Dick Epley, Kimball L. Garrett (Los Angeles Co.), Dan Guthrie, Jim & Karen Havlena (J & KH), Loren R. Hayes, Matt Heindel, Bruce Henderson, Roger Higson, H. Lee Jones, Brian W. Keelan, Laurie Klaisle, Andrew Kralter, Bruce LaBar (BLaB), Jeri M. Langham, Paul E. Lehman (Santa Barbara & Ventura counties), Harry Lehto, Mike Lippsmeyer, Curtis A. Marantz, Tom Martin, Robert E. Maurer, Michael McCrary (MMcC), Chet McGaugh (CMcG), Robert McKernan (RMcK—Riverside Co.), Joan Mills, Jeff Nysteen, Jerry Oldenettel, Dave Povey, Sylvia J. Ranney, Hugh Ranson, Don Roberson, John Schmitt, Brad Schram, Greg P. Smith, Bob Stewart (BSt), Stan Taggart, Gerald Tolman, Philip Unitt, Richard R. Veit, Bill Wagner, Richard E. Webster, Douglas Weir, Jack Whetstone (JWh), Douglas R. Willick (Orange Co.), John Wilson (JWi), Jim Zimmer. An additional 75 ± observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports this season.—GUY McCASKIE, San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, P.O. Box 1390, San Diego, CA 92112.